

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the courtesy extended to their representative by Examiner Tsai during a productive in-person interview on April 11, 2005. The foregoing amendments and the following commentary incorporate the substance of that interview.

II. Status of the Claims and Summary of Amendments Thereto

Claims 1-22 were cancelled previously. Claims 23-36 are currently pending.

Claims 23-25 are currently being amended to require that the recited processing step comprises analyzing the combination of said first and second responses. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification, for example, at page 3, lines 24-26; page 5, lines 20-21; and at page 15, lines 17-18. This amendment adds no new matter.

In connection with Applicants' Request for Continued Examination filed simultaneously herewith, Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing amendments and reconsideration of the present application in view of the reasons that follow. Applicants believe that the amendments and arguments raise no new issues and would require no further search.

III. The Office Action

A. Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 23-30 and 32-36 were finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,170,318 to Lewis ("Lewis"). Office Action at page 2. In maintaining this rejection, the PTO indicated that Lewis teaches, in addition to a chemical sensor, the recited second sensor, specifically an "air quality sensor [that] would function in a manner similar to a thermostat." *Id.* at 4. To the extent that the rejection may apply to the claims as amended, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Lewis does not teach or suggest the analysis of a combination of the recited first and second responses. The passages in Lewis upon which the PTO relies still address only responses to chemical stimuli, *e.g.*, detecting the presence of oxygen and carbon dioxide levels (both are chemicals; Lewis at col. 18, line 8), generally air quality; and detecting the presence of “atmospheric vapors”, such as water vapor (a chemical; *id.* at col. 18, line 64). The passages therefore do not address the claimed step of transmitting physical data, much less processing the chemical sensory and physical data at a remote location. Nonetheless, by way of the foregoing amendments, the claims clearly and unambiguously distinguish over Lewis because the reference fails to teach or suggest the analysis of a combination of the sensory (first) response and physical (second) response. Consequently, Lewis does not anticipate the claimed methods and it therefore fails to support the rejection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the PTO to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

B. Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 31 was finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being allegedly obvious over Lewis in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,252,510 to Dungan (“Dungan”). Office Action at page 5. The PTO cites to Dungan for its disclosure of monitoring a perimeter, which, when combined with the teachings of Lewis, allegedly renders the claimed method obvious. To the extent that this rejection may apply to the claims as amended, Applicants respectfully traverse.

The combination of Lewis and Dungan fails to support the rejection because Dungan does not remedy the deficiency of Lewis. Specifically, as discussed above, Lewis does not teach or suggest the claimed processing step wherein a combination of first and second responses is analyzed. Dungan, too, does not teach or suggest this feature of Applicants’ invention. Consequently, Lewis, alone or in combination with Dungan, would not have suggested this feature to a person of ordinary skill. The cited combination therefore fails to support the rejection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the PTO to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

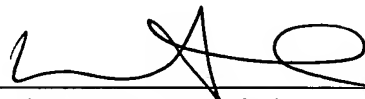
IV. Conclusion

Having satisfactorily addressed each of the outstanding issues, Applicants believe that this application is in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request reconsideration of the application as amended. If the Examiner feels that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application, she is courteously invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.